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Green

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(54) **BEVERAGE DISPENSER NOZZLE**

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(22) Filed: **Sep. 8, 2014**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(60) Provisional application No. 61/793,229, filed on Mar. 15, 2013.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

B67D 7/74	(2010.01)
B67D 1/00	(2006.01)
B67D 1/08	(2006.01)
B67D 1/12	(2006.01)
B67D 1/04	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***B67D 1/0017*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/006*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/0021*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/0051*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/0058*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/0081*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/0406*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/0884*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/1204*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/1279*** (2013.01); ***B67D 1/1286*** (2013.01); *B67D 1/0888* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC .. B67D 1/0017; B67D 1/0021; B67D 1/0042; B67D 1/0044; B67D 1/0045; B67D 1/0048; B67D 1/0058; B67D 1/006; B67D 1/0051; B67D 1/0888; B67D 1/1204; B67D 1/1286; B67D 1/0081; B67D 1/0406; B67D 1/1279; B67D 1/0884

USPC 222/129.1–129.4, 145.1, 145.5, 145.6, 222/566

See application file for complete search history.

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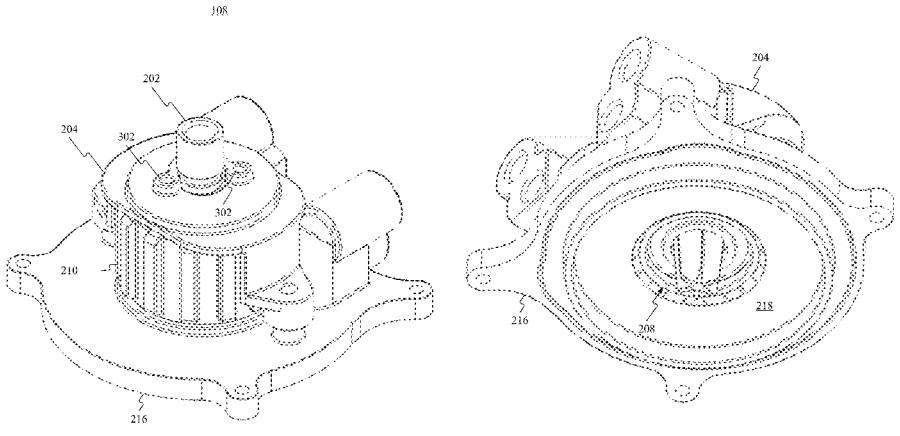
Primary Examiner — Lien Ngo

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for controlling a fluid flow may include a flow channel, a housing, a flow restrictor, and a housing adjustment member. The flow channel defines a fluid pathway for the fluid flow. The fluid pathway includes an inlet and an exit. The housing surrounds the flow channel. The housing comprises an exterior surface defining a first threaded portion. The flow restrictor is located within the housing and proximate the exit. The housing adjustment member includes a second threaded portion in contact with the first threaded portion. Embodiments may include a method for controlling a fluid flow. The method comprises: causing the fluid flow to pass through a flow channel having an inlet and an exit; restricting, via a flow restrictor, the fluid flow, the flow restrictor located proximate the exit; and adjusting a position of the flow restrictor to further restrict or unrestrict the fluid flow.

14 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



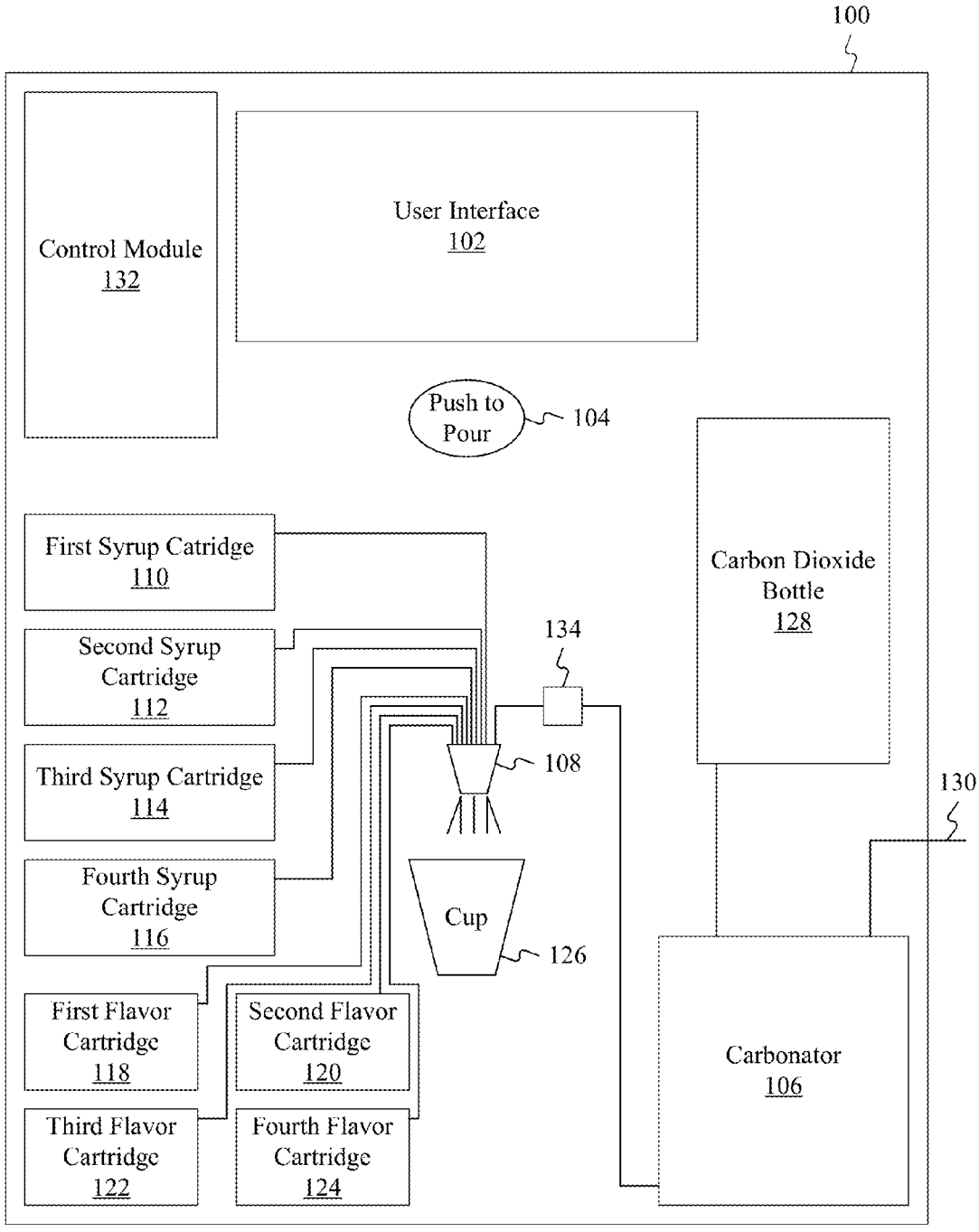

100
Control Module
132
User Interface
102
Push to
Pour
104
First Syrup Catridge
110
Second Syrup
Cartridge
112
Third Syrup Cartridge
114
Fourth Syrup
Cartridge
116
First Flavor
Cartridge
118
Second Flavor
Cartridge
120
Third Flavor
Cartridge
122
Fourth Flavor
Cartridge
124
134
108
Cup
126
Carbon Dioxide
Bottle
128
130
Carbonator
106

FIG. 1

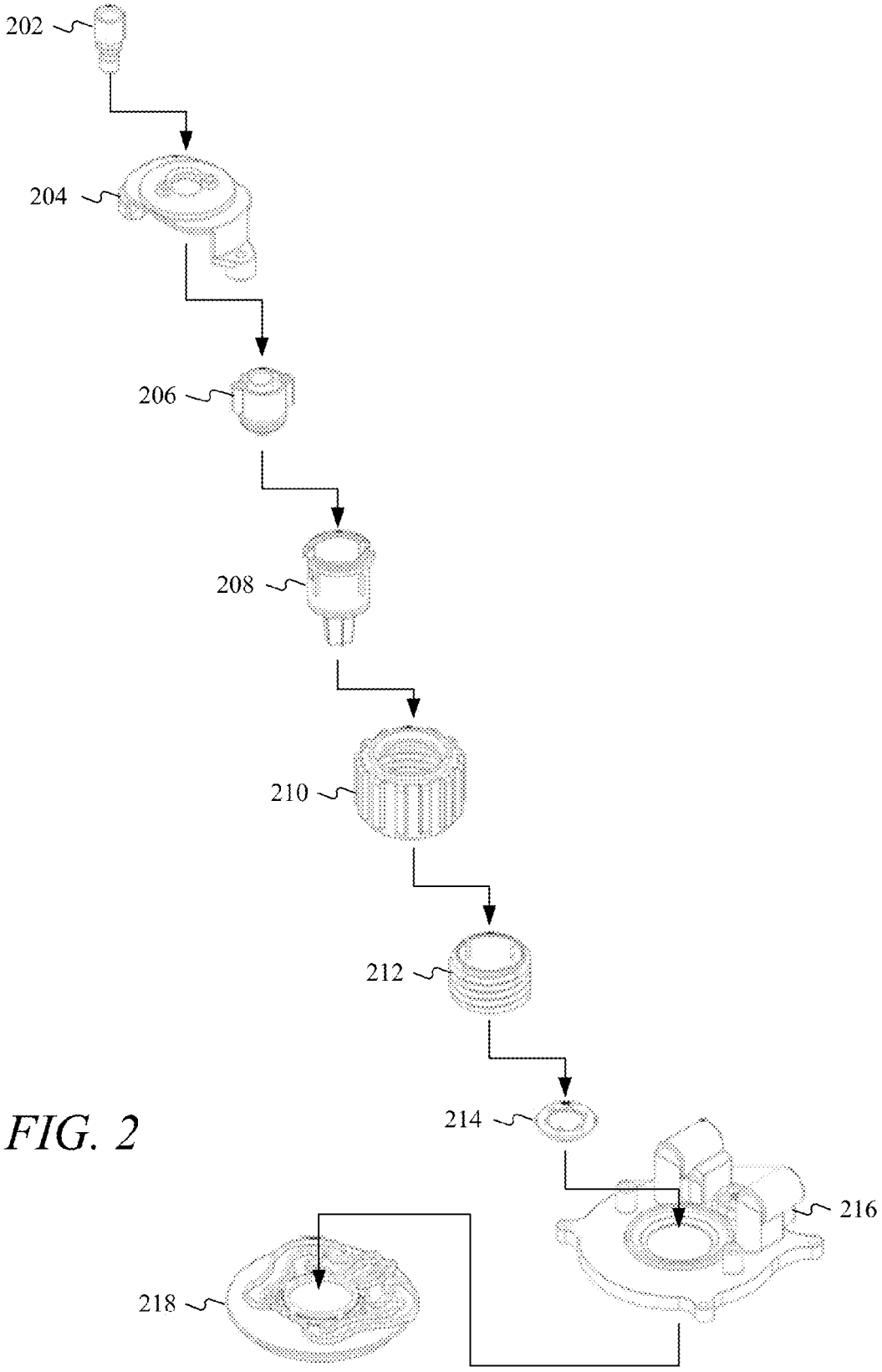


FIG. 2

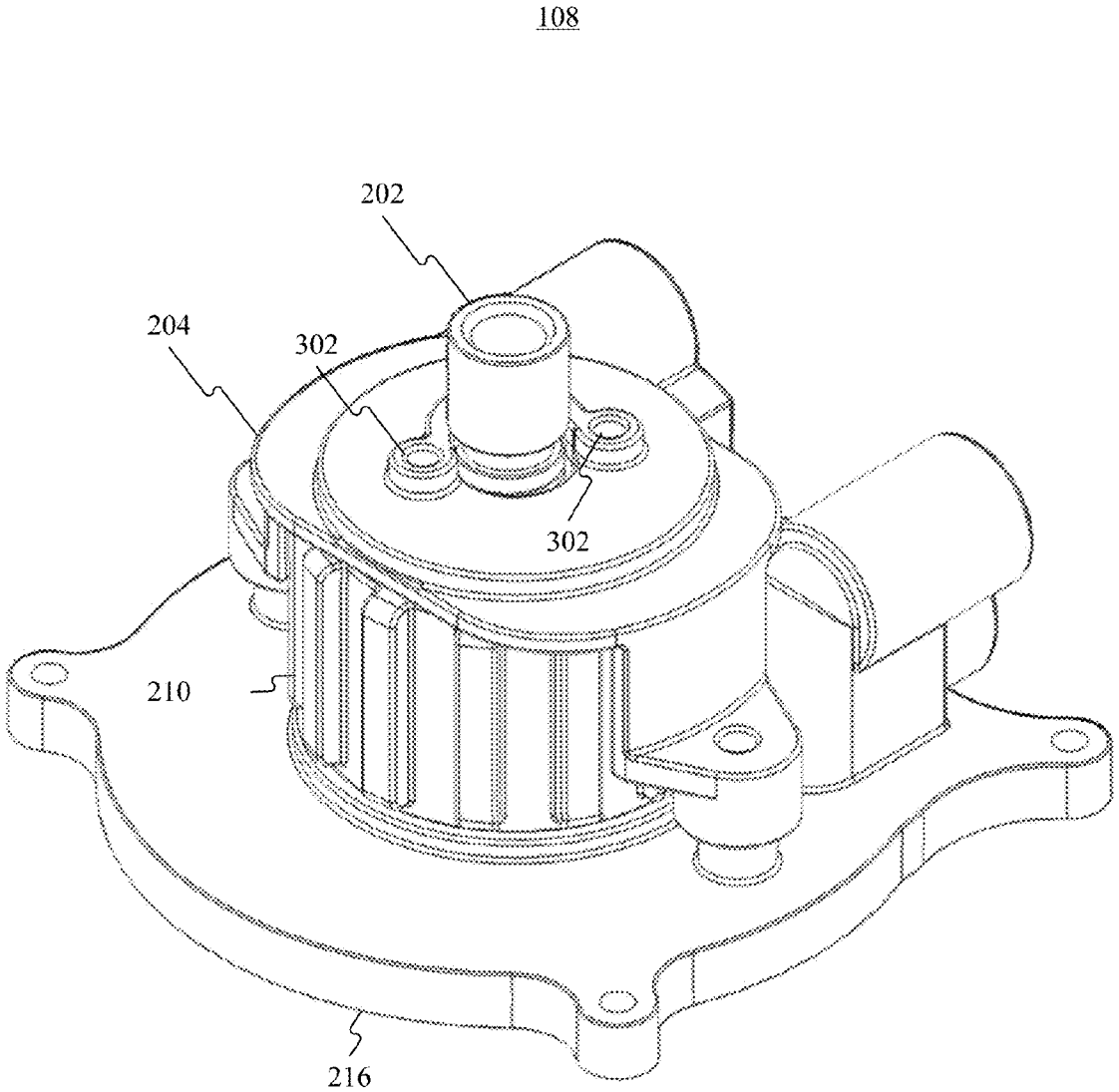


FIG. 3

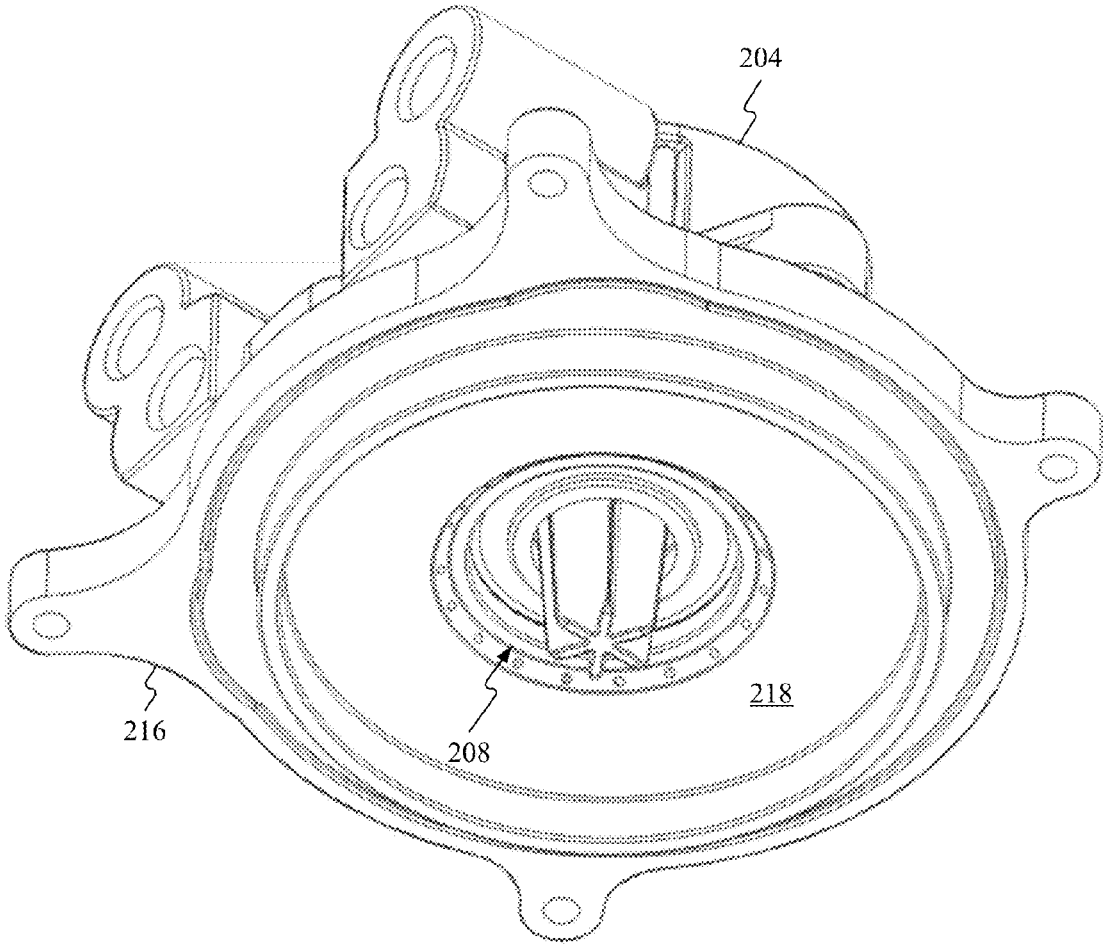


FIG. 4

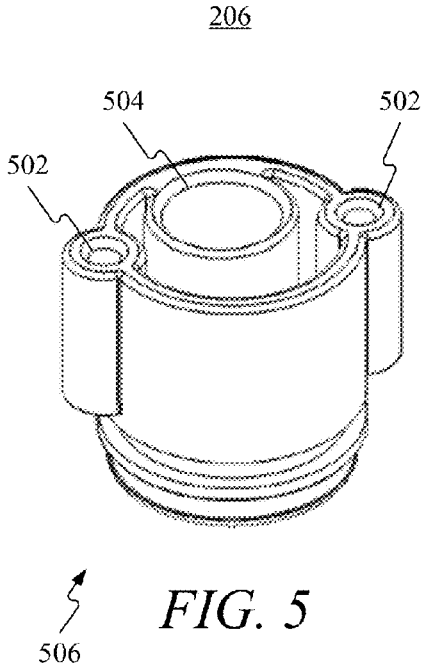


FIG. 5

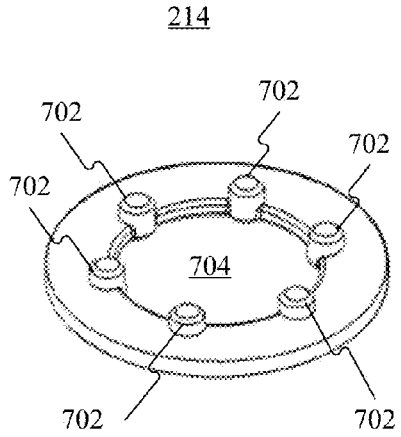


FIG 7

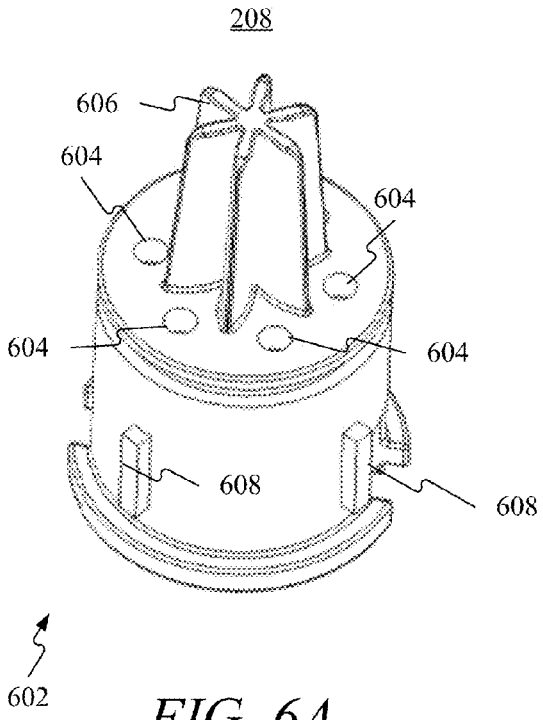


FIG. 6A

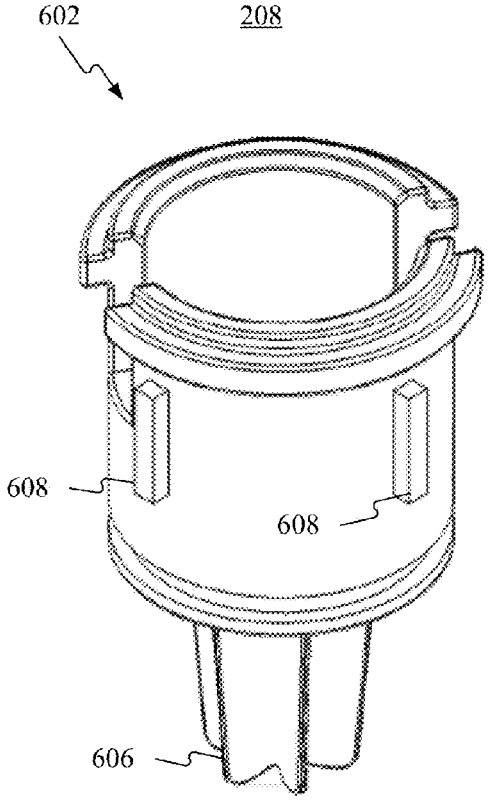


FIG. 6B

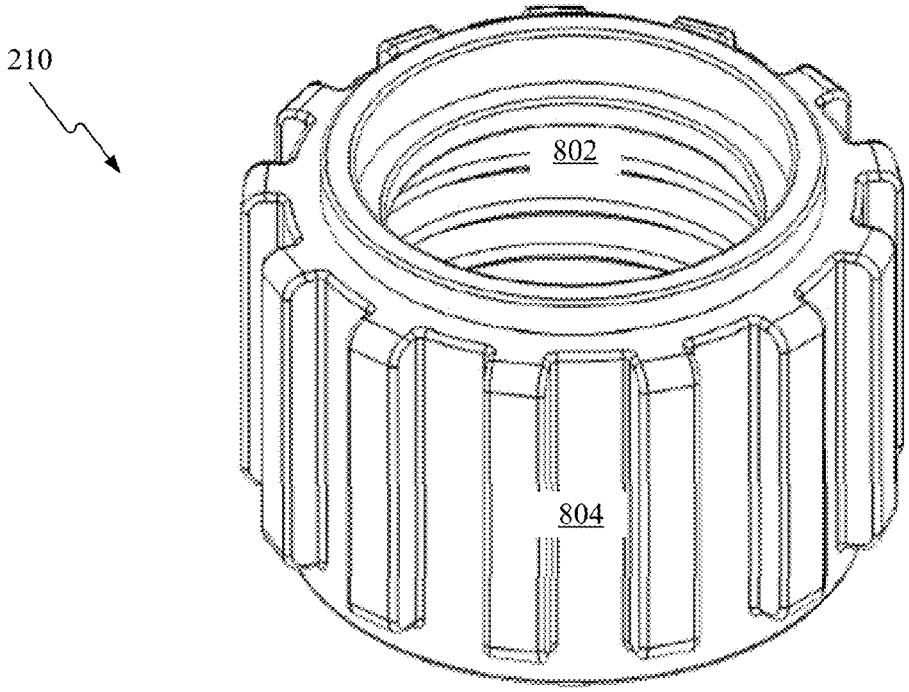


FIG. 8

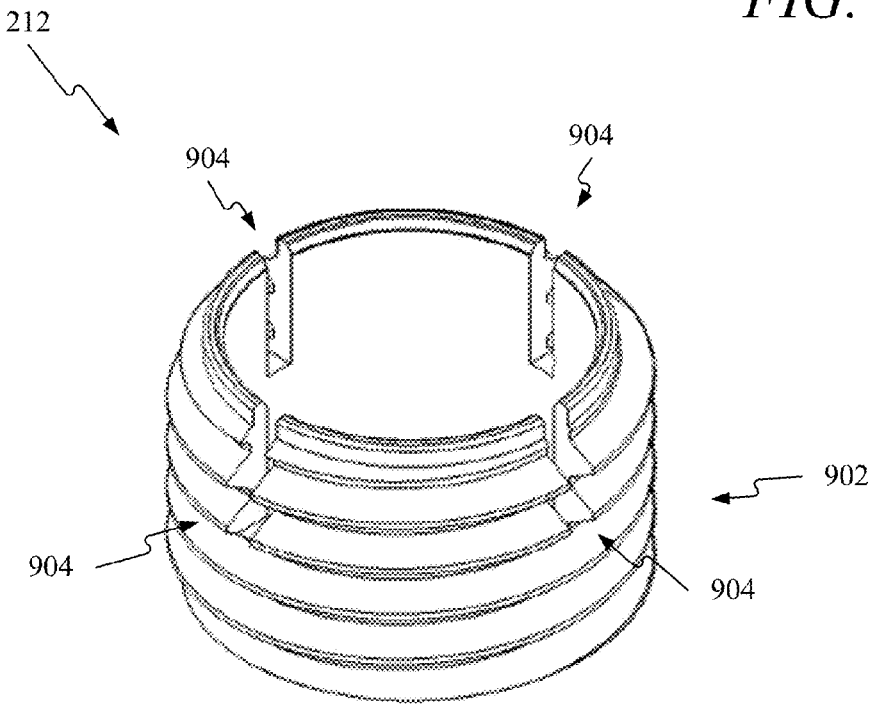


FIG. 9

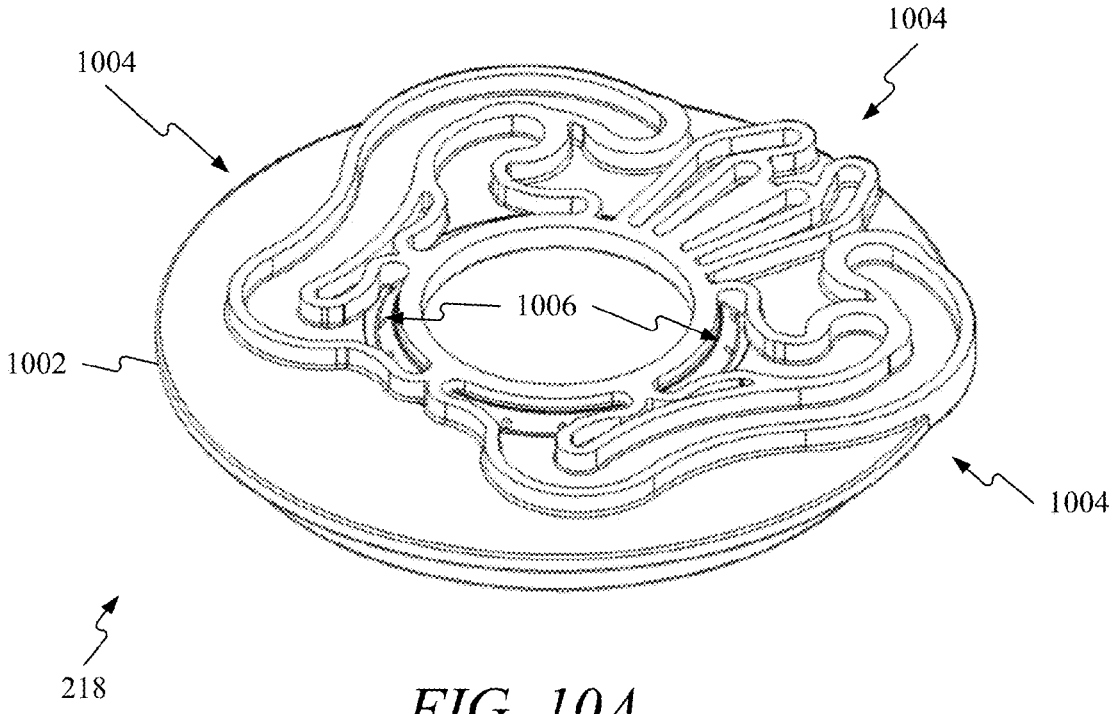


FIG. 10A

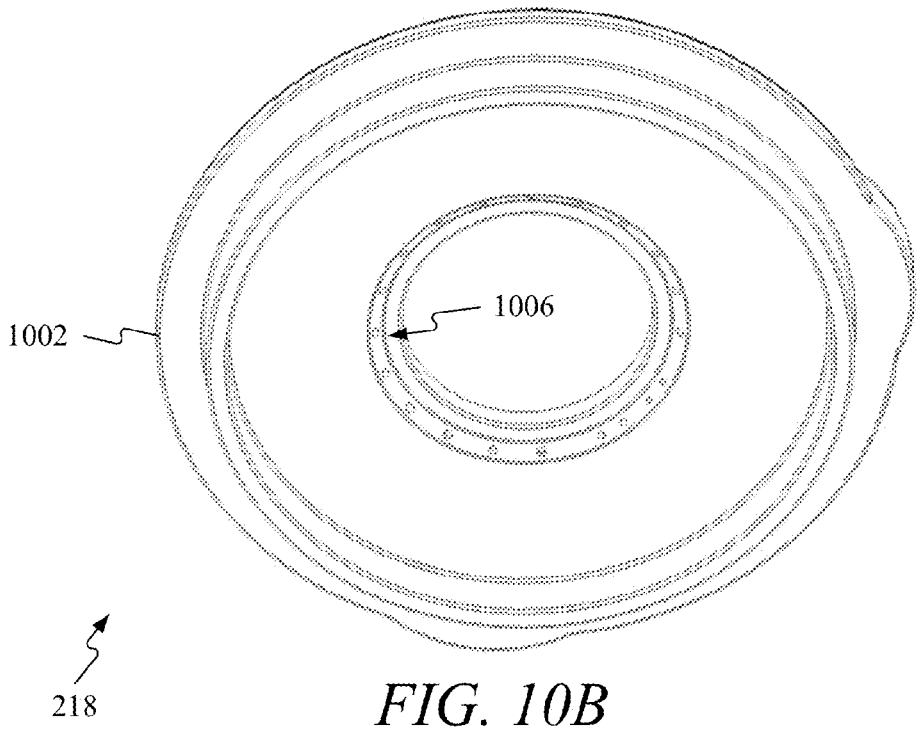


FIG. 10B

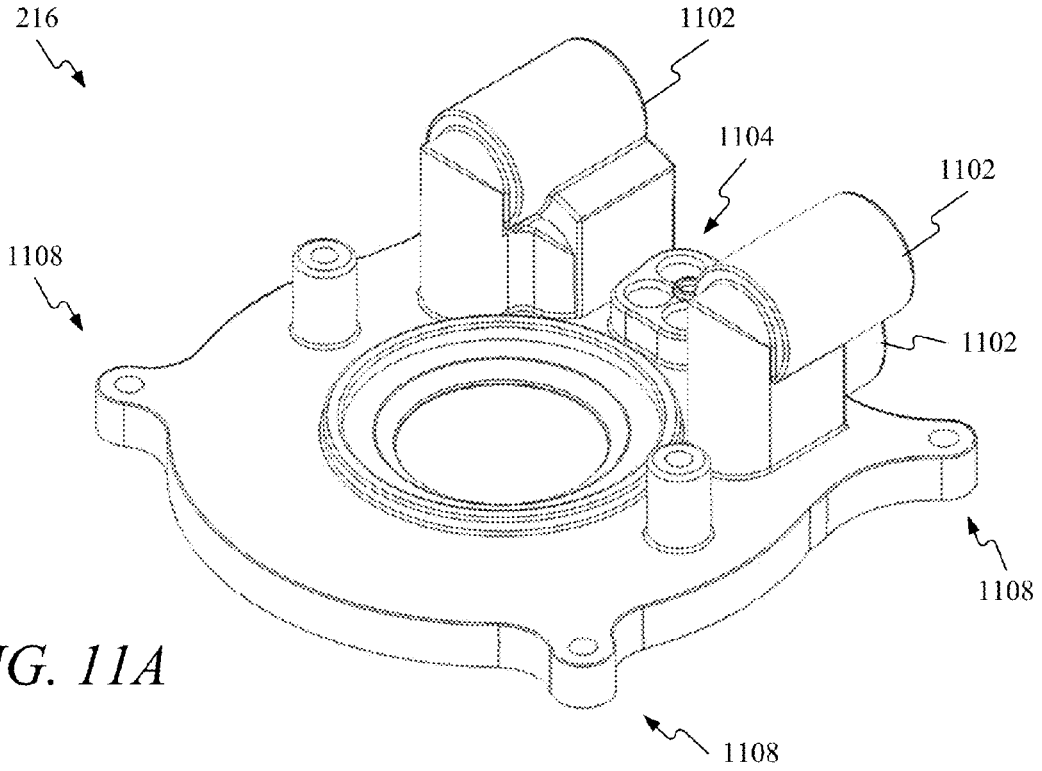


FIG. 11A

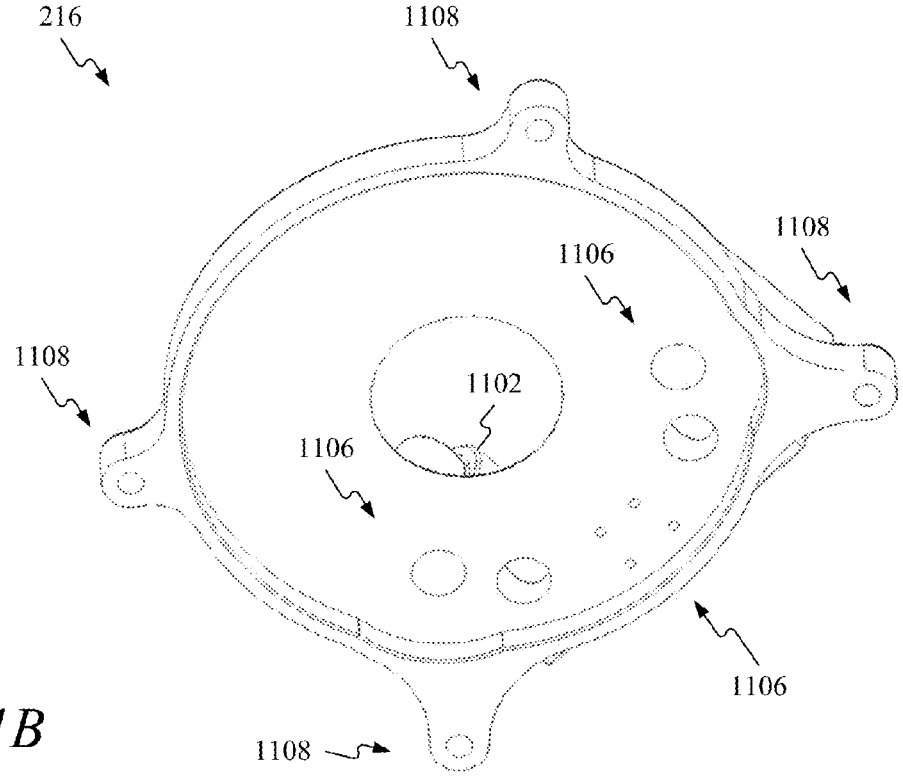


FIG. 11B

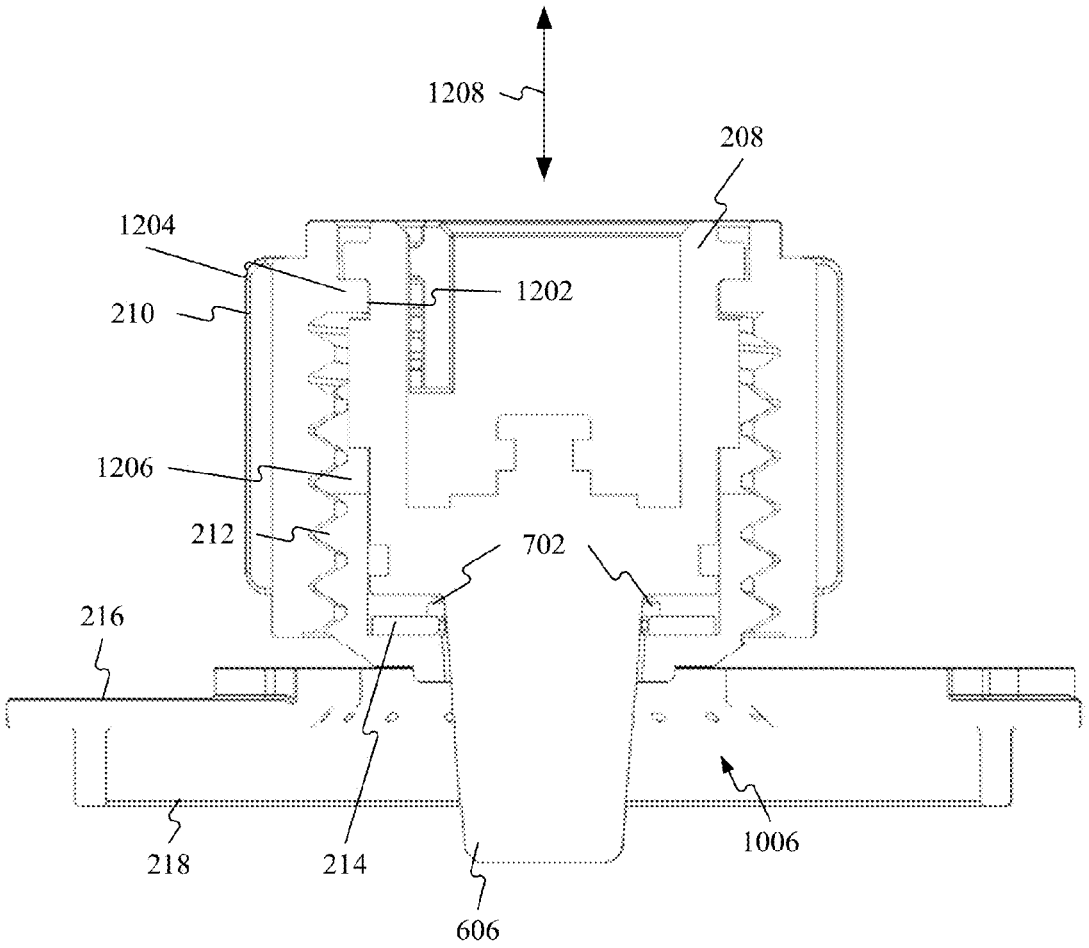


FIG. 12

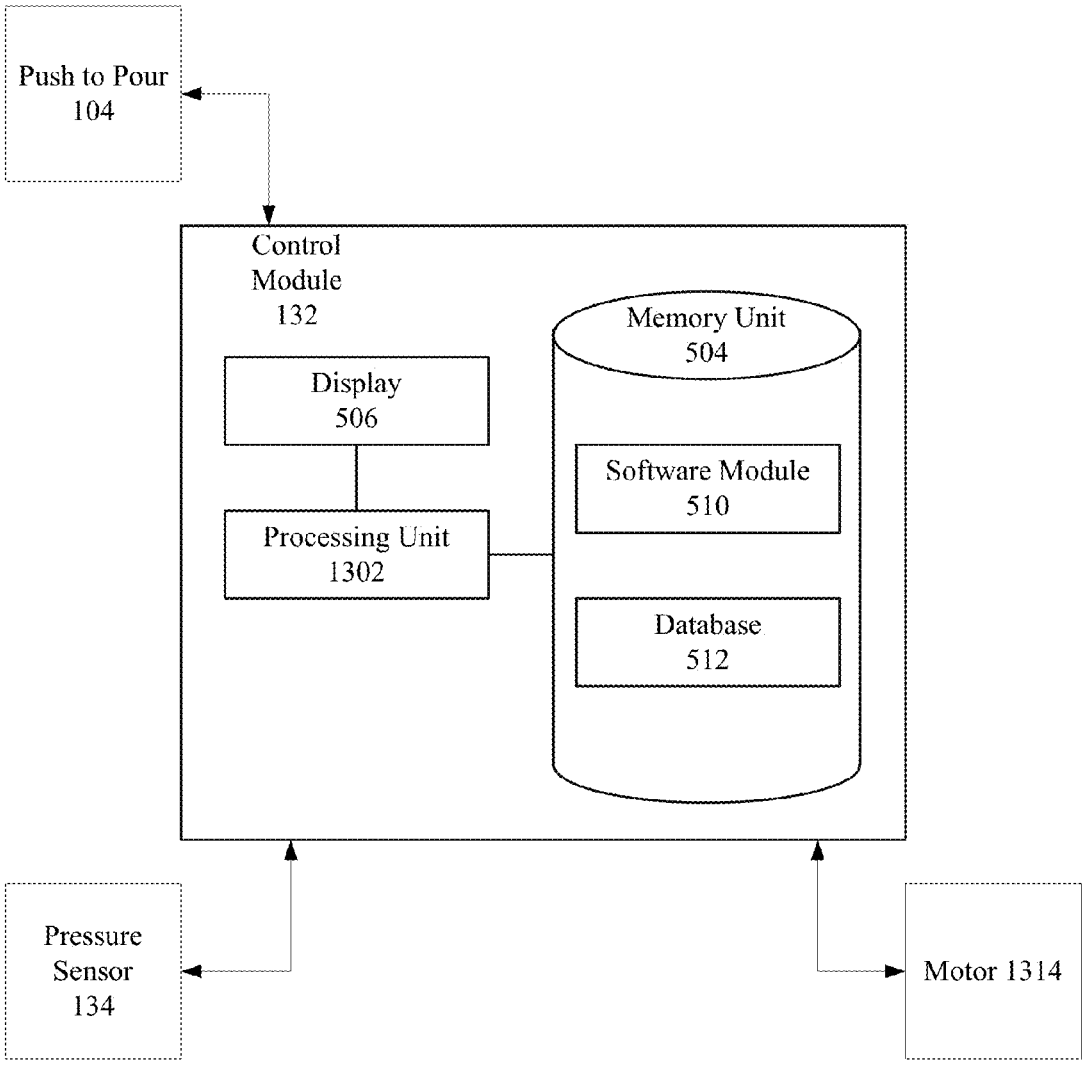

Push to Pour
104
Control
Module
132
Memory Unit
504
Display
506
Software Module
510
Processing Unit
1302
Database
512
Pressure
Sensor
134
Motor 1314

FIG. 13

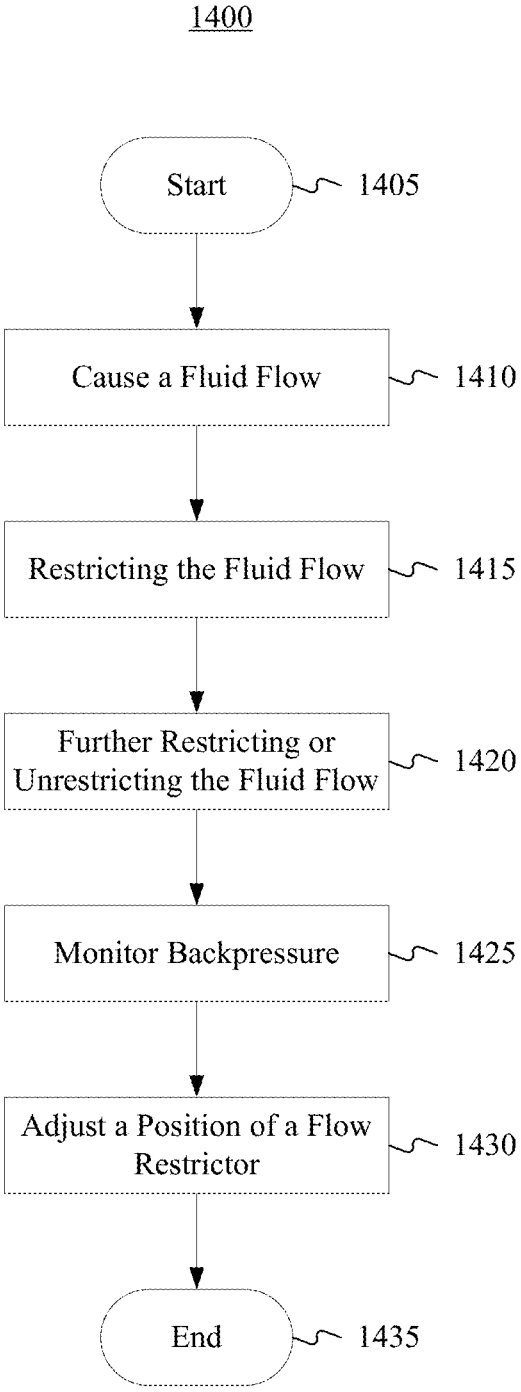

1400
Start
1405
Cause a Fluid Flow
1410
Restricting the Fluid Flow
1415
Further Restricting or Unrestricting the Fluid Flow
1420
Monitor Backpressure
1425
Adjust a Position of a Flow Restrictor
1430
End
1435

FIG. 14

BEVERAGE DISPENSER NOZZLE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 61/793,229, filed Mar. 15, 2013, entitled "Beverage Dispenser Nozzle," of which the disclosure is incorporated herein, in its entirety, by reference.

BACKGROUND

Beverage dispensers require ingredients to be added in order to form the beverage. Ingredients such as carbonated water can be delivered directly from a plumbing system. Ingredients that give a beverage its taste, color, etc., may be mixed via a nozzle to create a post-mix drink.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this disclosure, illustrate various embodiments of the present invention. In the drawings:

FIG. **1** shows a schematic of a beverage dispenser;

FIG. **2** shows an exploded assembly of a nozzle;

FIG. **3** shows the nozzle;

FIG. **4** shows the nozzle;

FIG. **5** shows a water channel;

FIGS. **6**A and **6**B show a flow channel;

FIG. **7** shows a flow restrictor;

FIG. **8** shows a housing adjustment member;

FIG. **9** shows a housing;

FIGS. **10**A and **10**B show a distributor;

FIGS. **11**A and **11**B show a distributor top;

FIG. **12** shows a section of the distributor, distributor top, flow channel, housing, housing adjustment member, and flow restrictor;

FIG. **13** shows a control module; and

FIG. **14** shows a flow chart for controlling flow.

DESCRIPTION

The following detailed description refers to the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used in the drawings and the following description to refer to the same or similar elements. While embodiments of the invention may be described, modifications, adaptations, and other implementations are possible. For example, substitutions, additions, or modifications may be made to the elements illustrated in the drawings, and the methods described herein may be modified by substituting, reordering, or adding stages to the disclosed methods. Accordingly, the following detailed description does not limit the invention.

Embodiments may include an apparatus for controlling a fluid flow. The apparatus may include a flow channel, a housing, a flow restrictor, and a housing adjustment member. The flow channel defines a fluid pathway for the fluid flow. The fluid pathway includes an inlet and an exit. The housing surrounds the flow channel. The housing comprises an exterior surface defining a first threaded portion. The flow restrictor is located within the housing and proximate the exit. The housing adjustment member includes a second threaded portion in contact with the first threaded portion.

Embodiments may include a method for controlling a fluid flow. The method comprises: causing the fluid flow to pass through a flow channel having an inlet and an exit; restricting, via a flow restrictor, the fluid flow, the flow restrictor located proximate the exit; and adjusting a position of the flow restrictor to further restrict or unrestrict the fluid flow.

Now turning to the figures, FIG. **1** shows a schematic of a beverage dispenser **100**. The beverage dispenser **100** includes a user interface **102**, a push to pour button **104**, a carbonator **106**, and a nozzle **108**. Syrups may be stored in a plurality of syrup cartridges (e.g., a first syrup cartridge **110**, a second syrup cartridge **112**, a third syrup cartridge **114**, and a fourth syrup cartridge **116**). Flavors may be stored in a plurality of flavor cartridges (e.g., a first flavor cartridge **118**, a second flavor cartridge **120**, a third flavor cartridge **122**, and a fourth flavor cartridge **124**). The plurality of syrup cartridges and the plurality of flavor cartridges are connected to the nozzle **108**.

It should be understood that the plurality of syrup cartridges and plurality of flavor cartridges may include any number of ingredients including, but not limited to, sweetened beverage bases or beverage syrups, sweetened flavors or flavor syrups, unsweetened beverage bases, unsweetened beverage base components (such as the acid, acid-degradable, and non-acid portions of a beverage base), unsweetened flavors, natural and artificial flavors, flavor additives, natural and artificial colors, nutritive or non-nutritive natural or artificial sweeteners, additives for controlling tartness (e.g., citric acid, potassium citrate, etc.), functional additives such as vitamins, minerals, or herbal extracts, nutraceuticals, medicaments, or alternative diluents such as juice, milk, or yoghurt. The ingredients may be concentrated with traditional beverage ingredients having reconstitution ratios of about 3:1 to about 6:1 or higher. The beverage micro-ingredients may have reconstitution ratios from about 10:1, 20:1, 30:1, or higher with many having reconstitution ratios of about 50:1 to 300:1. The viscosities of the ingredients may range from about 1 to about 100 centipoise.

During operation, a user may select a beverage using the user interface **102**. When the user presses the push to pour button **104**, carbonated water flows from the carbonator **106** to the nozzle **108** and the appropriate syrups and flavors flow from the plurality of syrup cartridges and the plurality of flavor cartridges. In a post mix beverage dispenser, the syrups, flavors, and carbonated water mix after exiting the nozzle **108**. For example, if a user selects a cherry flavored cola, carbonated water will flow from the carbonator **106** to the nozzle **108**. The cola syrup and cherry flavoring will flow from the appropriate cartridges to the nozzle **108**. The ingredients will then flow through the nozzle **108** and mix within the exiting fluid stream and a cup **126**.

The carbonated water is formed within the carbonator **106**. To form the carbonated water CO_2 flows from a carbon dioxide source (e.g., a carbon dioxide bottle **128**) to the carbonator **106**. Still water may flow into the carbonator **106** from an external source **130**. In some embodiments, the still water source may be included within the beverage dispenser **100**. The cooperation of the beverage dispenser **100** may be controlled by a control module **132**. The control module **132** may also monitor a backpressure, via a pressure sensor **134**, within the plumbing between the carbonator **106** and the nozzle **108**.

FIG. **2** shows an exploded assembly of the nozzle **108**. The nozzle **108** may include a fill fitting **202**, a clamp **204**, a water channel **206** (described in greater detail with respect to FIG. **5**), a flow change **208** (described in greater detail with respect to FIGS. **6**A and **6**B), a housing adjustment member **210** (described in greater detail with respect to FIG. **8**), a housing **212** (described in greater detail with respect to FIG. **9**), a flow restrictor **214** (described in greater detail with respect to FIG. **7**), a distributor top **216** (described in greater detail with respect to FIG. **11**), and a distributor **218** (described in greater detail with respect to FIGS. **10**A and **10**B).

The fill fitting **202** connects the nozzle **108** to the plumbing connecting the nozzle **108** to the carbonator **106**. The fill fitting **202** passes through the clamp **204** and connects to the water channel **206**. The water channel **206** connects the fill fitting **202** to the flow channel **208**. The flow channel **208** passes though the housing adjustment member **210** and the housing **212**. The flow restrictor **214** is located proximate an exit of the flow channel **208** and between the flow channel **208** and the housing **212**. Clamp **204** is used to secure the various components of the nozzle **108** to the distributor top **216**.

FIG. **5** shows the water channel **206**. The water channel **206** includes two mounting holes **502**. During assemble two screws, or other fasteners, pass through two holes **302** in the clamp **204** (see FIG. **3**) to secure the water channel **206** to the clamp **204**. The fill fitting **202** connects to the water channel **206** by insertion into a mounting hole **504**. The connection between the fill fitting **202** and the water channel **206** is sealed with an **0**-ring (not shown). The water channel **206** connects to the flow channel **208** by inserting a male portion **506** into an inlet **602** (see FIG. **6**B). The connection between the water channel **206** and the inlet **602** is sealed with an O-ring (not shown).

FIGS. **6**A and **6**B show the flow channel **208**. The flow channel **208** defines the inlet **602**. The inlet **602** connects a fluid pathway defined by the flow channel **208** to exits **604**. Each of the exits **604** allow still or carbonated water to pass a flow straightener **606**. The exits **604** may have a tapered profile. While FIG. **6**A shows the exits **604** as a plurality of holes, the exit could be a single hole or any other shape. Furthermore, while the flow straightener's **606** shape, as shown in FIG. **6**A directs the fluid flow along a straight path, the flow straightener **606** may have a helical profile or other profiles. For example, the flow straightener **606** may have a helical profile with perforations to facilitate mixing of the carbonated water with the syrups and flavors. The flow channel **208** may also include protrusions **608**. The protrusions **608** may be used to align and/or secure the flow channel **208** within the housing **212**.

FIG. **7** shows the flow restrictor **214**. The flow restrictor **214** includes protuberances **702**. The protuberances **702** are sized to mate with exits **604**. The flow restrictor **215** is manufactured from a resilient material. The protuberances **702** are tapered to compliment the tapered profile of the exits **604**. During assembly the flow straightener **606** passes through an opening **704** defined by the flow restrictor **214**.

FIG. **8** shows the housing adjustment member **210**. The housing adjustment member **210** includes an interior surface defining a threaded portion **802**. In addition, the housing adjustment member **210** includes an exterior surface defining a gear like profile **804**. The gear like profile **804** may connect with a driving mechanism, such as a motor, a belt drive, or a sprocket system. The driving mechanism may allow the housing adjustment member **210** to be rotated to cause the housing **212** to traverse in an axial direction within the housing adjustment member **210**.

FIG. **9** shows the housing **212**. The housing **212** includes an exterior surface defining a threaded portion **902**. The threaded portion **902** may engage the threaded portion **802** defined by the housing adjustment member **210**. The thread engagement allows the housing **212** to traverse in the axial direction when the housing adjustment member **210** is rotated. The housing also includes slots **904**. The slots **904** receive the protrusions **608** located on the flow channel **208**.

FIGS. **10**A and **10**B show the distributor **218**. The distributor includes a base **1002**. The base **1002** may define channels **1004**. The channels **1004** deliver the ingredients (e.g., syrups and flavors) to delivery ports **1006**. The size of each channel **1004** depends on the ingredients flowing through it. For example, channels **1004** that deliver macro-ingredients (e.g., syrups) may have a larger volume than channels **1004** that deliver micro-ingredients (e.g., flavors). Similarly, the number of delivery ports **1006** in each channel may depend on the ingredients flowing through it. For example, channels **1004** that deliver macro-ingredients may have more delivery ports **1006** (e.g., four delivery ports **1006**) than channels **1004** that deliver micro-ingredients (e.g., one delivery port **1006**). As will be discussed in greater detail below, the delivery ports **1006** are arranged to inject the ingredients into a flow of carbonated water passing through the flow channel **208**. The flow straightener **606** passes through the opening located in the center of the distributor **218**.

FIGS. **11**A and **11**B show the distributor top **216**. The distributor top **216** includes syrup ports **1102** and flavor ports **1104**. The flavor ports **1104** connect the distributor top **216** to the plurality of flavor cartridges. There is one flavor port **1004** for each flavor cartridge. In addition, the syrup ports **1102** connect the distributor top **216** to the plurality of flavor cartridges. There is one syrup port **1102** for each syrup cartridge.

Each of the flavor ports **1104** and the syrup ports **1102** connect to the channels **1004** located in the distributor **218**. During operation, the flavors and syrups flow through their respective ports and into their respective channels **1004** via outlets **1106**. When the distributor top **216** is connected to the distributor **218** the channels seal so that the various flavors and ingredients do not mix within the distributor **218** distributor top **216** assembly. The distributor top **216** is secured to the beverage dispenser **100** via screws passing through mounting holes **1108**.

FIG. **12** shows a section of the distributor **218**, distributor top **216**, flow channel **208**, housing **212**, housing adjustment member **210**, and flow restrictor **214**. As shown in FIG. **12**, a groove **1202** located in the flow channel **208** receives a tenon **1204** located on the housing adjustment member **210**. The mating of the groove **1202** and the tenon **1204** provides support for the flow channel **208**. The flow channel **208** also includes a recess **1206**. The recess **1206** allows the housing **212** to traverse in an axial direction as indicated by arrow **1208**. The traversing motion is caused by rotation of the housing adjustment member **210**. As the housing traverses, the flow restrictor **214** also traverses in the axial direction. When the flow restrictor **214** contacts the flow channel the protuberances **702** block the exits **604**.

The position of the flow restrictor **214** allows for a backpressure between the nozzle **108** and the carbonator **106** to be maintained. As the flow restrictor **214** moves towards the downward position or away from the exits **604**, the protuberances **702** block less and less of exits **604**. This causes less restriction in the flow of still or carbonated water and therefore reduces the backpressure. Similarly, as the flow restrictor **214** moves towards the upward position or towards the exits **604**, the protuberances **702** block more and more of the exits **604**. This causes more restriction in the flow of still or carbonated water and therefore increases the backpressure.

As the carbonated water flows through the flow channel **208**, it exits the nozzle **108** at flow straightener **606**. After the carbonated water has exited the flow channel **208**, the ingredients (e.g., syrups and flavors) exit the delivery ports **1006** to form a post-mix beverage. In other words, the ingredients mix with the carbonated water in an exit stream and in the cup **126**.

As shown in FIG. **13**, control module **132** may include a processing unit **1302**, a memory unit **1304**, and a display **1306** (e.g., user interface **102**). Memory unit **1304** may include a software module **1310** and a database **1312**. The control module **132** may send and receive signals (e.g., inputs and out-

puts) from motor **1314**, the pressure sensor **134**, and the push to pour button **104**. While executing on processing unit **1302**, software module **1310** may perform processes for controlling a flow, including, for example, one or more stages included in method **1400** described below with respect to FIG. **14**.

Control module **132** ("the processor") may be implemented using a personal computer, a network computer, a mainframe, a smartphone, or other similar computer-based system. The processor may comprise any computer operating environment, such as hand-held devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable sender electronic devices, minicomputers, mainframe computers, and the like. The processor may also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices. Furthermore, the processor may comprise a mobile terminal, such as a smart phone, a cellular telephone, a cellular telephone utilizing wireless application protocol (WAP), personal digital assistant (PDA), intelligent pager, portable computer, a hand held computer, or a wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) access point. The aforementioned systems and devices are examples and the processor may comprise other systems or devices.

Embodiments, for example, may be implemented as a computer process (method), a computing system, or as an article of manufacture, such as a computer program product or computer readable media. The computer program product may be a computer storage media readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process. The computer program product may also be a propagated signal on a carrier readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process. Accordingly, the present invention may be embodied in hardware and/or in software (including firmware, resident software, micro-code, etc.). In other words, embodiments of the present invention may take the form of a computer program product on a computer-usable or computer-readable storage medium having computer-usable or computer-readable program code embodied in the medium for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system. A computer-usable or computer-readable medium may be any medium that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

The computer-usable or computer-readable medium may be, for example but not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system, apparatus, device, or propagation medium. More specific computer-readable medium examples (a non-exhaustive list), the computer-readable medium may include the following: an electrical connection having one or more wires, a portable computer diskette, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM or Flash memory), an optical fiber, and a portable compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM). Note that the computer-usable or computer-readable medium could even be paper or another suitable medium upon which the program is printed, as the program can be electronically captured, via, for instance, optical scanning of the paper or other medium, then compiled, interpreted, or otherwise processed in a suitable manner, if necessary, and then stored in a computer memory.

While certain embodiments have been described, other embodiments may exist. Furthermore, although embodiments have been described as being associated with data stored in memory and other storage mediums, data can also be stored on or read from other types of computer-readable media, such as secondary storage devices, like hard disks, floppy disks, or a CD-ROM, a carrier wave from the Internet, or other forms of RAM or ROM. Further, the disclosed methods' stages may be modified in any manner, including by reordering stages and/or inserting or deleting stages, without departing from the invention.

Embodiments, for example, are described above with reference to block diagrams and/or operational illustrations of methods, systems, and computer program products according to embodiments of the invention. The functions/acts noted in the blocks may occur out of the order as shown in any flowchart. For example, two blocks shown in succession may in fact be executed substantially concurrently or the blocks may sometimes be executed in the reverse order, depending upon the functionality/acts involved.

FIG. **14** shows a flow chart for a method **1400** for controlling a fluid flow. The method **1400** may begin at starting block **1405** and proceed to stage **1410** where a fluid flow is caused to flow through the flow channel **208**. For example, a user may press the push to pour button **104** and carbonated water may flow from the carbonator **106** through the flow channel **208**.

From stage **1410** where the fluid flow is cause, the method **1400** may proceed to stage **1415** where the fluid flow may be restricted. For example, as the flow of carbonated water exits the exits **604** the flow may be restricted by protuberances **702**. From stage **1415** where the flow is restricted, the method **1400** may proceed to stage **1420** where the flow may be further restricted or unrestricted. For example, the position of the flow restrictor **214** may be changed as described above to further restrict or unrestrict the fluid flow. In other words, a portion of the protuberances **702** may be caused to penetrate the exits **604**.

From stage **1420** where the fluid flow is further restricted or unrestricted, the method **1400** may proceed to stage **1425** where the back pressure upstream of the flow channel **208** is monitored. For instance, pressure sensor **134** may monitor the backpressure and send a signal to control module **132** indicating the backpressure.

From stage **1425** the method **1400** may proceed to stage **1430** where the position of the flow restrictor **214** may be adjusted. For example, the control module **132** may interpret the signal from the pressure sensor **134** as indicating the backpressure is too high. As a result, the control module **132** may actuate the motor **1314**. The motor **1314** may then cause the housing adjustment member **210** to rotate thereby repositioning the flow restrictor **214** to lower the backpressure. Depending on the speed of the motor **1314** and the response time of the pressure sensor **134**, the adjustment of the flow restrictor **214** may occur in near real time. In other words, based on input from the pressure sensor **134**, the control module **132** may actuate the motor **1314** to continuously reposition the flow restrictor **214** to maintain a near constant backpressure. From stage **1430**, the method **1400** may terminate at termination block **1435**.

The various embodiments described above are provided by way of illustration only and should not be construed to limit the claims attached hereto. Various modifications and changes may be made without following the example embodiments and applications illustrated and described herein, and without departing from the scope of the invention defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for controlling a fluid flow, the apparatus comprising:

a flow channel defining a fluid pathway for the fluid flow, the fluid pathway including an inlet and an exit;

a housing surrounding the flow channel, the housing comprising an exterior surface defining a first threaded portion;

a flow restrictor located within the housing and proximate the exit;

a housing adjustment member comprising a second threaded portion in contact with the first threaded portion;

a distributor defining a first flow channel in fluid communication with a first plurality of delivery ports located proximate the exit and a second flow channel in fluid communication with a second plurality of delivery ports located proximate the exit; and

a distributor top bounding at least a portion of the first flow channel and the second flow channel, the distributor top defining a first input port in fluid communication with the first flow channel and a second input port in fluid communication with the second flow channel.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the flow restrictor comprises a protuberance sized to at least partially block the exit.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the flow channel passes through the distributor and the distributor top, the first plurality of delivery ports arranged to inject a second flow into the fluid flow, the second plurality of delivery ports arranged to inject a third flow into the fluid flow.

4. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the first plurality of delivery ports and the second plurality of delivery ports are arranged to cause post-mixing.

5. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the housing and flow restrictor are arranged to maintain a consistent backpressure within the fluid flow.

6. The apparatus of claim **1**,

wherein the flow channel defining the fluid pathway comprises the flow channel defining an annulus, and

wherein the flow restrictor comprises at least one protuberance having a protuberance complimentary to the annulus.

7. A beverage dispenser comprising:

a carbonator; and

a nozzle in fluid communication with the carbonator, nozzle comprising:

a flow channel defining a fluid pathway for the fluid flow, the fluid pathway including an inlet and an exit, the inlet in fluid communication with the carbonator;

a housing surrounding the flow channel, the housing comprising an exterior surface defining a first threaded portion;

a flow restrictor located within the housing and proximate the exit; and

a housing adjustment member comprising a second threaded portion in contact with the first threaded portion;

a distributor defining a first flow channel in fluid communication with a first plurality of delivery ports located proximate the exit and outside the flow channel and a second flow channel in fluid communication with a second plurality of delivery ports located proximate the exit and outside the flow channel; and

a distributor top bounding at least a portion of the first flow channel and the second flow channel, the distributor top defining a first input port in fluid communication with the first flow channel and a second input port in fluid communication with the second flow channel.

8. The beverage dispenser of claim **7**, wherein the flow restrictor comprises a protuberance sized to at least partially block the exit.

9. The beverage dispenser of claim **7**, wherein the housing and flow restrictor are arranged to maintain a consistent backpressure within the fluid flow.

10. The beverage dispenser of claim **7**, wherein the flow channel defining the fluid pathway comprises the flow channel defining an annulus, and

wherein the flow restrictor comprises at least one protuberance having a protuberance complimentary to the annulus.

11. The beverage dispenser of claim **7**, wherein the flow channel passes through the distributor and the distributor top, the first plurality of delivery ports arranged to inject a second flow into the fluid flow, the second plurality of delivery ports arranged to inject a third flow into the fluid flow.

12. The beverage dispenser of claim **11**, wherein the first plurality of delivery ports and the second plurality of delivery ports are arranged to cause post-mixing.

13. The beverage dispenser of claim **7**, further comprising:

a pressure sensor located between the carbonator and the inlet;

a step motor mechanically coupled to the housing adjustment member; and

a control module in electrical communication with the pressure sensor and the step motor.

14. The beverage dispenser of claim **13**, wherein the pressure sensor is operative to output a signal to the control module, the signal indicating the backpressure, and

wherein the control module is operative to actuate the step motor in response to receiving the signal, to maintain a constant backpressure within the flow channel.

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